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THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
*TRUSTEES OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE*  
TO THE TOWN.

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The trustees of the Peabody donation respectfully submit their third annual Report to the town.

It affords us much pleasure to state that since our last report the building has been completed and publicly dedicated on the 29th of September last by appropriate and interesting ceremonies.

By great exertion of the library Committee, the library was opened to the public on the 18th of October last. And the avidity with which our population availed themselves of its privileges, most distinctly indicates that we have a reading community. And that the desire of Mr. Peabody to promote knowledge among the people of his native Town is likely to be accomplished. In this connection we take the opportunity to state that in addition to the three thousand dollars originally appropriated by Mr. Peabody for the foundation of a library, he has had purchased and forwarded to us, free of any charge, about twenty five hundred volumes, of valuable standard and miscellaneous books, some of them rare and scarce works, many of them desirable as books of reference. With this addition to what had been purchased by the library Committee, we have now upon the shelves and in circulation about five thousand volumes. And of this we should all be proud and take an interest, in its increase, preservation and success. Our funds at this time do not allow a permanent librarian, a librarian who can be in constant attendance. Mr. E. B. Hinckley the instructor of the Peabody high school has devoted all the leisure hours which other duties will allow him to the care and interest of the library, and he is in



attendance at the library room on Wednesday and Saturday of every week from 2 to 8 o'clock P. M. for the delivery of books. There are now over twelve hundred names registered on the books of the Institution as recipient of this great charity, a large proportion of them are young ladies and young men, and to those who feel an interest in the objects of the Institution, a visit to the library room on the day of exchanging books would be gratifying. The bright and happy faces which are to be seen, the quiet demeanor, and the interest manifested in selecting books, is a sight which we trust will be looked upon at no distant day, by him who has placed these privileges within our reach.

The Lyceum department which is also under the management of the library Committee has been eminently successful. We have had a course of eleven lectures paid for from the income of the funds of the Institution all of which, have been learned, interesting, and satisfactory; and have been listened to by crowded and delightful audiences. Since the closing of the course of free lectures, an independent course of seven lectures has been given, for which tickets were sold, and these also were highly instructive and interesting and well attended. We have also let the hall two or three times for concerts of music, to associations of respectable character; and they have afforded to those who attended great pleasure and gratification. This kind of amusement we have heretofore been in the habit of going to Salem to enjoy.

It will be recollected that at a Town meeting holden in February 1854, resolutions were adopted inviting Mr. Peabody to furnish us with a full length portrait of himself, to be placed in the lecture hall of the building. A Committee was chosen for that purpose and immediately communicated to Mr. Peabody the wishes of the Town. He kindly consented to comply with the request, and it is well known that the portrait arrived in this Country, just in season, to be placed in the hall the day previous to dedication, and although the dedication of the building was postponed longer than some desired, for the accommodation of the distinguished orator of the day; the opportune arrival of the portrait, dispelled all complaints, and gave fresh interest to the excitement and services of the occasion. Mr. Choate's appearance among his former townsmen was also a source of gratification, and it is enough to say the address





was worthy of his fame and will be (together with other matter) published in a pamphlet.

The permanent fund of the Institution amounting to two thousand dollars, is under the care of Eben Sutton Esq. the treasurer of the board of trustees, the income of which is expended in paying for lectures, purchase of books and other expenses.

We have now had one season's experience of the operations of the Peabody Institute, and it may be truly said, that the gathering together on one or more evenings in each week of so many of our people, has had a tendency to promote social intercourse, and diffuse kind and genial feelings throughout our community, and as the hall has been thrown open to every person, without restraint or police regulations, the good order and stillness which have prevailed, are highly creditable to our population, and has been spoken of in terms of commendation by nearly every lecturer, and it would seem that all who come to the Institution to partake of what is freely offered, feel as though they were treading upon ground, sacred to knowledge, morality and good order.

In conclusion we take the liberty to state that in starting the Institution a great amount of labor and care has necessarily devolved upon the Trustees and library Committees. The erection of a suitable building, its exterior appearance, and its interior arrangements have been a source of anxiety, and we are happy in believing that it meets the approbation of our own community, and is looked upon with much favor by strangers. A much greater amount of labor has been performed by a part of the library Committee, than is generally supposed by those who have not witnessed their exertion. Their services are only rewarded by the consciousness of helping to promote a noble charity, and doing what they could to fulfil the wishes of Mr. Peabody, and benefit the inhabitants of the Town of Danvers.

Per order of the board of trustees.

R. S. DANIELS.

DANVERS, MARCH, 1855.

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